

CJ 760
Advanced Seminar in Criminological Theory
Spring 2008
TH 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Room A181

Instructor: Dr. Jurg Gerber
Office: C-111
Phone: 294-3172
Office Hours: Tu, W, 9:00 AM –noon
Th 1:00-3:00 PM
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Course Description

Catalogue: Extensive studies in areas of classical and/or current criminological theory. A basic knowledge of criminology is assumed. Emphasis is on analytical, critical evaluation, and the advancement of theory.

Objectives: We will discuss theories that attempt to explain the etiology and epidemiology of crime. Particular emphasis will be put on crime in the United States, although a deliberate effort will be made to examine the extent to which American explanations are applicable to other societies. Furthermore, we will devote special attention to so-called “radical” theories.

Recommended Text

Einstadter, Werner, and Stuart S. Henry. 1995. *Criminological Theory*. Harcourt (or some other overview of classical theory and positivism).

Required Readings

Katz, Jack. 1990. *Seductions of Crime*. Basic Books.

Messerschmidt, James. 1993. *Masculinities and Crime* Rowman and Littlefield.

Schwartz, Martin, and Suzanne Hatty. 2003. *Controversies in Criminology*. Anderson.

Price, Barbara Raffel, and Natalie J. Sokoloff. 2004. *The Criminal Justice System and Women*, third edition. McGraw/Hill.

Simpson, Sally S. 2000. *Of Crime & Criminality*. Pine Forge.

Pepinsky, Harold E., and Richard Quinney. 1991. *Criminology as Peace-Making*. Indiana University Press.

Additional readings to be placed on Blackboard.

Class Requirements

This class will be taught as a combination of seminar and lecture. This means that the students will have to assume considerable responsibility for the content of the course. Furthermore, some of the course will be taught through *Blackboard*. Students will therefore be required to participate in on-line discussions.

Grading

Four (4) take-home examinations. These examinations will be distributed throughout the semester. Answers are to be typed and double-spaced—approximate length is 5-8 pp. (4 x 50 points)	200 Points
A research paper (to be submitted in two drafts—each is graded)	100 Points
Class Participation	<u>50 Points</u>
	350 Points

Make-up Examinations

All examinations are in the form of take-home examinations and are distributed at least two weeks before they are due. Except under highly unusual circumstances (e.g., lengthy hospitalization) there will be no opportunity to make up an examination.

Grade Distribution

315-350 Points	A
280-314 Points	B
245-279 Points	C
0-278 Points	F

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given.

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual, entitled, *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the guidelines—my translation of the material: you cheat, you flunk).

Attendance

While the university policy on attendance can be found at the website, http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf, my own policy is that I will conduct random checks at my discretion.

Disabled Student Policy

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. For a full discussion of the university policy, see http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Consistent with the Texas Education Code and SHSU University Policy 861001, students who desire to be absent from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present the professor with a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). I will then notify the students of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Tobacco Products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

Electronic Devices in the Class Room

Students are free to record class lectures and/or discussions with the understanding that no copies of these lectures and/or transcripts made from these recordings are sold or otherwise distributed for use by others. Please make sure to set any electronic communication devices to “silent mode” during class sessions.

SHSU Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington Hall 111, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Tentative Order of Topics and Reading Assignments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1/17	Introduction	
1/24	“Traditional Theories”	Einstadter and Henry (1-226)
	The first section of the course will involve classical theory and the various forms of positivism. Special emphasis will be placed on sociological approaches. This section of the course will focus mostly on theories up to 1980.	
1/31	“Traditional” Theories continued	Einstadter and Henry (1-226)
1/31	Mini Prospectus for Term Paper Due (not graded)	

2/7 Traditional Criminological Theory Updated Simpson
(Prelude, Parts 2 and 3)

This section will focus on modern adaptations of traditional theories. Examples include neighborhood analysis, strain, labeling, developmental and routine activity theory.

2/14 First Take Home Examination Due

2/14 Seductions of Crime Katz

We will look at the factors that make crime appealing to offenders: “A chilling exploration of the criminal mind—from juvenile delinquency to cold-blooded murder.”

2/21 Seductions of Crime Katz

2/28 Critical Criminology Einstadter and Henry
(chapters 10 and 12)
Schwartz and Hatty (Ch. 1)
Simpson (Ch. 4)

This section will be an introduction to the field of *critical criminology*. Topics to be covered include neo-Marxist theory including *instrumentalism* and *relative autonomy*.

3/6 Masculinities and Crime Messerschmidt
Schwartz and Hatty (Ch. 11)

We will focus on how males interpret masculinity and how it helps to explain crime and some forms of delinquency.

3/13 Spring Break

3/20 Second Take Home Examination Due

3/20 *Blackboard* Einstadter and Henry
Feminism (chapter 11)
Simpson (Ch. 1 and 2)
Price and Sokoloff (1-194)

Various forms of feminism will be explored and how they help us understand crime, but also criminal victimization.

3/27 Feminism Schwartz and Hatty (Ch. 2)
Price and Sokoloff (195-446)

4/3 First Draft of Term Paper Due (complete draft)

4/10 Third Take Home Examination Due

4/10 Left Realism Schwartz and Hatty (Ch. 3)
Readings on Blackboard

Left realism is a neo-Marxist approach that originated in England and treats street crime and working class fear of street crime as legitimate.

4/17	Blackboard Peacemaking Criminology and Restorative Justice	Schwartz and Hatty (Ch. 7-8) Pepinsky and Quinney
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Peacemaking criminologists tend to argue that most other forms of criminology are misguided because they fail to focus on the need to achieve justice.

4/24	Blackboard Peacemaking Criminology and Restorative Justice	Pepinsky and Quinney
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5/1	Postmodern, Constitutive, Cultural, and Critical Race Theory	Schwartz and Hatty (4, 5, 6, 10, 12) Simpson (3) Readings on Blackboard
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Modern, “radical” forms of criminology are the topic of discussion in this section.

5/8 Second Draft of Term Paper Due

5/8 Open (Topic to be determined)

5/12 MONDAY: Fourth Paper Due

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Guidelines for the Term Paper for CJ 760

The purpose of a term paper is to give students an opportunity to pursue a research topic in greater detail than is possible in class discussions. I am flexible in terms of topics you wish to pursue, but the papers must focus on a **theoretical perspective that is covered in this class (NOT one of the “traditional” theories)**. Some general guidelines are as follows:

1. The paper will be submitted in three stages: (1) a mini-proposal that is not graded, (2) a first draft that will be graded, and (3) a final draft that is also graded. The grade on the first draft may be dropped at *the professor’s discretion*.
2. First and second draft of the paper must be submitted **in hard copy and electronic form**. The first draft **must be resubmitted** when the second draft is submitted for the first time. Papers will be submitted to *Turnitin.com*.
3. Length of the paper is not determined in advance. The topic of the paper determines how long it should be.
4. Number of citations. This depends on the nature of the topic. Some topics have been researched extensively while others have not. Include as many citations as are necessary to make your discussion complete.
5. Appropriate References. Except for unusual topics (e.g., Criminology in the Media), I expect you to refer in your paper primarily to the scholarly literature: books should be published by major presses and journal articles should be indexed in major scholar indexes such as *Criminal Justice Abstracts*.

6. Three sub-rules to rule 4:
 - a. *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* does not count as a scholarly index.
 - b. If a book or journal has a lot of pictures, it is probably not of a scholarly nature.
 - c. There is relevant literature in addition to what is available on the Internet. In fact, most of what is on the Internet is NOT appropriate for a graduate level term paper.
7. Style and format of the paper should be professional (or at least semi-professional). Follow a standard referencing format throughout the paper (APA, ASA, *Criminology*, and so on).
8. Academic Honesty. When someone else's work or scholarship is a part of material submitted to demonstrate competency, the source of the material should be given credit. It should not be stated or implied that such material is the student's own work.
9. Multiple Submissions. The same piece of work should be submitted for credit in more than one course only with the permission of all instructors involved.
10. The papers are supposed to be RESEARCH papers:
 - a. Provide appropriate documentation (both in the text and in a separate reference section)
 - b. Intro texts are not appropriate as a source of information as a general rule—read the original works
 - c. Dictionaries are not appropriate as a general rule
 - d. Personal experiences are relevant at times, but mostly in introductions
 - e. There is a fine line between sloppy documentation and plagiarism:
“copying what somebody else has written or taking somebody's else's idea and trying to pass it off as original” (MSN Encarta)
If you have not read the original works, be careful in how you cite them. Do not pass the summaries of someone else as your own.
 - f. Provide page numbers if you are quoting material verbatim.
 - g. Including a quote from someone that has been reported by another writer is fine, if that source is the only one for the quote (e.g., it is the result of a personal interview). Citing the secondary source because you did not look up the original is not a good enough reason.
11. There is an important difference between the short papers and this paper (the term paper). The short ones rely on personal interpretation and while this one relies on research.
12. One consequence of #11 is the following: **review the relevant literature.** If your paper deals with deviance among police officers, for instance, be sure to review the literature on the police subculture. Your paper must be focused on the literature, not just your personal experiences.
13. Be sure not to rewrite a “book review.” Review the literature as a whole, do not focus exclusively on one book or article.